

### Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

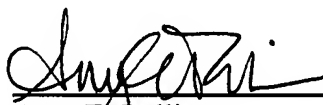
Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the hydrophobic group is on "a surface of the inorganic oxide", thus rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-15 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, lines 8-9 of the specification. Claim 4 has been amended to delete the parentheses, thus rendering moot the rejection to this claim under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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